

## Member Questions

### People Overview – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

#### Questions from Ruth Houghton

Shropshire continues to welcome Ukrainian refugees including many children of school age. Could the Portfolio holder please provide an update on the following:

- How many Ukrainian children have places in primary, secondary and 6th form or further education schools and colleges and critically how many children and young people are still without a place?

As of Friday 26 September 2022, there are known to be 140 Ukrainian refugees in early years, primary, secondary and FE college settings across Shropshire. It is understood that Shropshire settings are processing further in-year applications that the local authority is yet to be advised on as families are arriving in county every week. An exercise is being undertaken with schools to confirm the Ukrainian pupils currently in their schools so that we have an up-to-date countywide picture, particularly given the new academic term and a number of instances of pupils transferring from early years to primary, primary to secondary and secondary to FE.

To date the vast majority of Ukrainian families seeking a place for their child have been able to do secure one.

- Where primary school class sizes are already at capacity what support is being provided to Ukrainian families to ensure that their children are able to access a school place.

A fair access process is in place to deal with those cases where schools are unable to offer a school place for an in-year admission, for example where they are constrained by statutory infant class size regulations or the particular year group is full. Since March the Fair Access Panel, which is tasked with finding an alternative school, has only had to meet twice and was able to find a school place in each case.

- What funding is available to schools to provide additional support to Ukrainian children

The Department for Education is providing funding for schools, with phased payments based on the following annual allocations per pupil: early years (2 to 4 years) - £3,000; primary (5 to 10 years - £6,580), and; secondary/FE (11 to 18 years - £8,755). The first payment for Shropshire was received at the end of August for the arrivals between 1 March and 31 May 2022, which is currently being distributed to schools. Further payments are expected to be received quarterly.

It is important to be aware that only schools admitting refugees arriving through the Homes for Ukraine scheme qualify for this financial support. Schools offering places via the Ukraine Family scheme are not eligible for funding as these arrivals are deemed to be the normal visa route for families arriving in the UK

from overseas for whom schools do not routinely receive funding for their education.

- What English lessons are being provided to Ukrainian children and young people and their families?

The following website has the most up to date information regarding this:

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/homes-for-ukraine/education-%D0%BE%D1%81%D0%B2%D1%96%D1%82%D0%B0/esol-english-for-speakers-of-other-languages/>

Children and young people's language learning is supported by their Early Years settings, school or college. EY settings and schools receive additional funding to support a) refugee pupils and b) pupils learning English as an Additional Language [Phil Wilson will be able to confirm levels of funding]. Young people aged 16-18 whose English is limited are able to access a specialist full-time college course at Shrewsbury College.

Adults are able to access English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision through the following routes: see

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/homes-for-ukraine/education-%D0%BE%D1%81%D0%B2%D1%96%D1%82%D0%B0/esol-english-for-speakers-of-other-languages/>

- accredited courses at The Gateway Centre and North Shropshire College, Oswestry.
- ESOL programme run by Shropshire Supports Refugees based at Shrewsbury Community Hub; recent confirmation of funding from Shropshire Council will allow this programme to grow and become more formalised. It includes online learning options.
- informal ESOL provision run by volunteers in other towns including Ludlow, Oswestry, Market Drayton, Wem, Church Stretton and Bishop's Castle
- future outreach classes planned by Herefordshire, Ludlow and North Shropshire College in Market Drayton, Whitchurch and Wem